

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST PRACTICE ACT AMENDMENTS**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill amends the Physical Therapy Practice Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ permits an individual in the final term of a program of study in physical therapy to take a licensing exam before graduation.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**58-24b-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 318

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **58-24b-302** is amended to read:

**58-24b-302. Licensure.**

(1) An applicant for a license as a physical therapist shall:

- (a) be of good moral character;
- (b) complete the application process, including payment of fees;
- (c) submit proof of graduation from a professional physical therapist education

program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;

(d) ~~[after complying with Subsection (1)(c);]~~ pass a licensing examination[;];

(i) after complying with Subsection (1)(c); or

(ii) if the applicant is in the final term of a professional physical therapist education program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;

(e) be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language

and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

(f) if the applicant is applying to participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact under Chapter 24c, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, consent to a criminal background check in accordance with Section 58-24b-302.1 and any requirements established by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and

(g) meet any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

(2) An applicant for a license as a physical therapist assistant shall:

(a) be of good moral character;

(b) complete the application process, including payment of fees set by the division, in accordance with Section 63J-1-504, to recover the costs of administering the licensing requirements relating to physical therapist assistants;

(c) submit proof of graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;

(d) ~~[after complying with Subsection (2)(c);]~~ pass a licensing examination approved by division rule made in collaboration with the board and in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act[;];

(i) after the applicant complies with Subsection (2)(c); or

(ii) if the applicant is in the final term of a physical therapist assistant education program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency;

(e) be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

(f) submit to, and pass, a criminal background check, in accordance with Section 58-24b-302.1 and standards established by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and

(g) meet any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

(3) An applicant for a license as a physical therapist who is educated outside of the United States shall:

(a) be of good moral character;

(b) complete the application process, including payment of fees;

(c) (i) provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant graduated from a professional physical therapist education program that is accredited by a recognized accreditation agency; or

(ii) (A) provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant graduated from a physical therapist education program that prepares the applicant to engage in the practice of physical therapy, without restriction;

(B) provide satisfactory evidence that the education program described in Subsection (3)(c)(ii)(A) is recognized by the government entity responsible for recognizing a physical therapist education program in the country where the program is located; and

(C) pass a credential evaluation to ensure that the applicant has satisfied uniform educational requirements;

(d) after complying with Subsection (3)(c), pass a licensing examination;

(e) be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

(f) if the applicant is applying to participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact under Chapter 24c, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, consent to a criminal background check in accordance with Section 58-24b-302.1 and any requirements established by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; and

(g) meet any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

(4) The division shall issue a license to a person who holds a current unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in a state, district, or territory of the United States of America, other than Utah, if the person:

(a) is of good moral character;

(b) completes the application process, including payment of fees;

(c) is able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in the English language and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the board if requested by the board;

(d) if the applicant is applying to participate in the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact under Chapter 24c, Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, consents to a criminal background check in accordance with Section 58-24b-302.1 and any requirements established

95 by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;  
96 and

97 (e) meets any other requirements established by the division, by rule made in  
98 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

99 (5) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection 58-1-307(1)(c), an individual may not engage in an  
100 internship in physical therapy, unless the person is:

101 (i) certified by the division; or

102 (ii) exempt from licensure under Section 58-24b-304.

103 (b) The provisions of Subsection (5)(a) apply, regardless of whether the individual is  
104 participating in the supervised clinical training program for the purpose of becoming a physical  
105 therapist or a physical therapist assistant.